GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:276
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2003
FUNDS UNDER UNDP FOR IMPROVEMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Indian Environmental System has become vulnerable to natural disasters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether UNDP`s Global Environmental Facilities funding to India is continuously increasing; and

(d) if so, the funds received from UNDP during the last three years and the measures taken to improve environmental system in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a), (b),(c)& (d): A statement is laid down on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to the parts (a), (b) (c) & (d) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 276 for 10 March, 2003 raised by Shri Raghuraj Singh Shakya, MP on `Funds under UNDP for Improvement of Environment`

(a) & (b) Natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, droughts, cyclones, etc. have adverse impacts on the local eco-system. Due to its size and geo-climatic conditions, India is vulnerable to such natural disasters.

(c) & (d) Global Environment Facility (GEF) is an international financial mechanism that provides funds to developing countries to help them in carrying out projects to achieve global environment benefits. During the last three years, funds to the tune of US $ 29.25 million have been allocated by UNDP for GEF projects in India. These include 8 projects worth US $ 21.06 million signed for GEF assistance including Project Development Facility (PDF) assistance during the last three years.In addition, funds to the tune of US $ 5.27 million have also been received during the last three years for various environment related sub-programmes under the Country Cooperation Framework (CCF).

The measures taken by Government of India to improve environmental system in the country include:

- Eco-regeneration
- Environmental Impact Assessment of specified developmental projects
- Promotion of Environmental and Forestry Research, Extension, Education and Training
- Afforesatation and re-generation of degraded areas
- Prevention and control of pollution
- Dissemination of environmental information and education
- Creation of Environmental awareness
- Management of hazardous substances/wastes
- National Rivers Conservation Plan
- Energy efficiency and cleaner production technologies.